



Photo History



June 2006 - July 2006 (Volume 12)





June 2006 - (Volume 12)

Water, water everywhere, rain, rain and to rub salt into the wound we now have a hose-pipe ban. The well publicised fat cats are all German and I can't see any other European country allowing their basic utilities to be operated by any other country. It does not make sense. We have a leak outside our house (from the meter) and it has been 'on-going' since August '05. 'Thames Water' are getting a lot of stick in the press and I can easily see why. Massive massive profits, enormous bills and a shocking lack of service.

There has been a change in the weather at last and some days are baking hot but unusually we are getting the following days so cold we even think about putting the heating back on. But, in our usual fashion we grab life by the b**** and enjoy every minute planning days out and sod the weather...if it rains 'tough'. Most of the times with that attitude we are really lucky and have spent some great times out at loads of different locations and I hope the next pages will show what a variety of things are out there to enjoy.....



London#June 2006



Inge, Mum's cousin had an anniversary and came over with her husband Al, who sadly is suffering from Alzheimers. Linda with husband Dave and twin brother Barry and Joan his wife bought them over. They stayed in an apartment in Mayfair and Linda's daughter and partner were there for the first few days.



Lynn with Andrea
(Linda's daughter)
and Al (Linda's dad)



Inga with Mum at their rented
apartment in Mayfair



Photo History



Page 4



Larnie and Andrea
deep in
conversation



Ben and
Andrea
enjoying a
joke



Andrea and Larnie in the restaurant



Barry (Linda's twin brother)



Dave (Linda's husband)



Joan - Barry's wife



Inga and Al (mum's cousin
and Linda's and Barry's)



Our good friend Marion, slowly catching up age-wise , celebrated her 'special' birthday by taking around 80 of us on a fantastic canal dinner cruise from Camden via the Regents canal to the zoo and turned at Paddington basin. It was a great night and we were delighted to spend it in such great company.





Norma and Jeff at Norma's before we went out for a great French meal together



Norma in her delightful landscaped garden

Jan's son got married in June and we went back to the house after the ceremony in a London hotel to a marquee meal and dance in the wonderful setting of Jan's garden. The weather and surroundings could not have been better and Lynn looked fantastic...





Lynn with Julia at the wedding.....

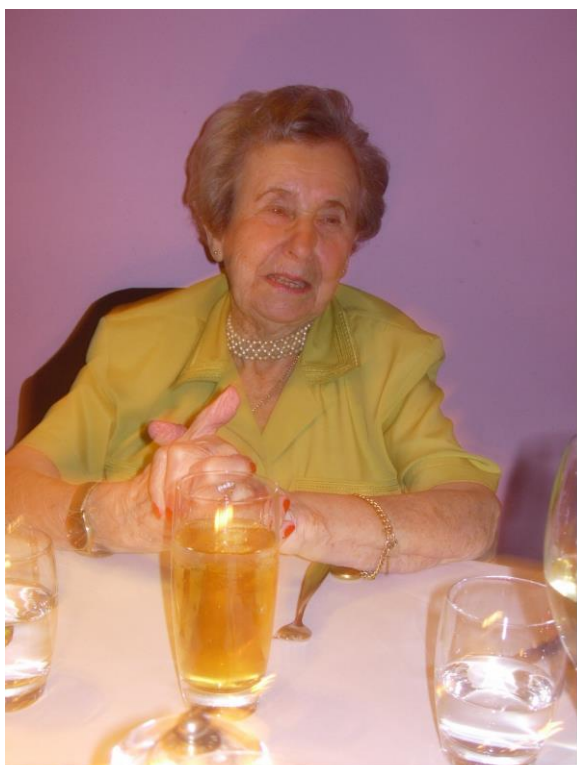


June 14th and it is Mum's 86th birthday and she took Tammy, Ben and Larnie together with Lynn and myself to The Sarogossa Sea at Winchmore Hill. It is a fish restaurant and the service and ambience were great. It was a splendid evening and it is a great feeling that we are such a united family able to go out together with no hassles and no usual family bickering. It is a shame that DP and family were unable to join us but at least he phoned during the meal to say 'Happy Birthday to mum. Mum looked great and was in a really happy mood. She is great for her age and her wicked sense of humour is still much in evidence





In The Restaurant....







My Larnie has got an eye for photography...she took my camera and got this atmospheric candle shot...well done Larnie...



Paul and Christine have bought a boat which is moored at a marina close to Huntingdon, north of Cambridge. They invited us up for a ride and we went along the delightful river Ouse and it was idyllic. Just like *Three Men In a Boat* (*only there were four of us ...and oh yes! ...two men and two women*) The river had reeds on both banks and wonderful riverside houses and there was a small pretty church with an adjacent field where there were deckchairs and people enjoying a brass band. We slowly meandered back and they made us a great BBQ meal. It was a little bit of paradise and we could see why they were so happy with their leisure-time away-from it all location.







Enjoying the BBQ on the riverbank....with only the ducks to disturb the serenity...

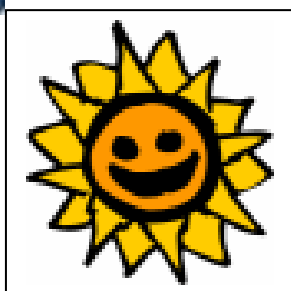


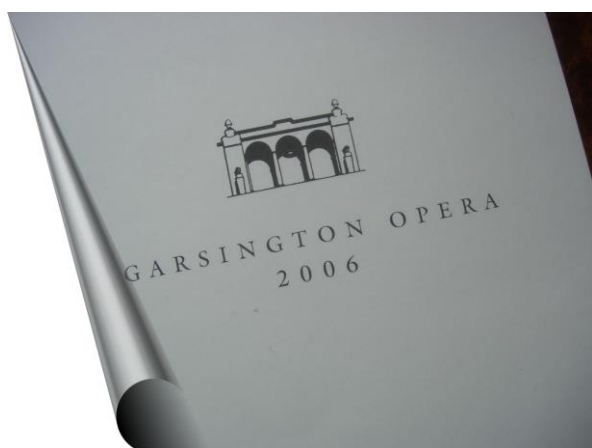
A Great day messing about on
the river





Every year we try to go to the 'Open Garden' day and this year we managed to fit in the 'Bayford Musical Gardens' open day in June this year. There were around 14 gardens ranging in size from fairly modest to huge estates with lakes, pools and landscaped areas. Some had jazz bands, steel bands, bbq's and brass bands. We went from garden to cream tea to garden to cream tea and totally enjoyed the sun, the fantastic gardens and realised if we had gardens like these we would need an army of help to keep them as they appear plus never really wanting to go on holiday. In short you could become a slave to your garden...no such problem with my handkerchief-sized patch!





Maryanne and Peter invited us to join them at Garsington Opera and the weather was perfect and the drive to the venue close to Oxford was delightful.

We took a picnic which was commenced in the tranquil grounds and then finished during the long evening interval . A totally memorable day out in lovely surroundings with great friends











Maryanne
and Peter
..most
elegantly
attired





In mid July Lynny and I took a drive to the Chilterns for a day out. Walking across the hills and through the woods cleared our minds and brought life back into focus



The fields were full of wild flowers and the views from the tops through the trees were accompanied by birdsong. I left my mobile on a seat in a clearing and we had to retrace our steps...and there it was 'ringing' it's antennae in exasperation...



....real fresh air....





Martin, Maxine, Morris and Sue with Sue and David helped us with a bbq at home...



Heavy conversation
at the BBQ

and a Sunday lunch at 'Roast' in Borough Market. Great company but a very poor meal



Ross, lovely as always



Leon , deep in thought



Mug shots...If you see these men, do not approach them they are known to be armed and occasionally legless





Late July, DP, Angela and the kids put on an 'event' at Radford Mill Farm. We took Larnie, staying in a local B&B overnight. Well, the pictures speak for themselves. We had a great time and were really proud of our family. Larnie felt so at home and it is great that all the family can come together for a relaxing and laid-back time like this



Radford Mill Farm#July '06

Real fun entertainment and a inspired organic meal together with delightful company in a splendid setting with the grandchildren enjoying it all to the full....



Table decorations

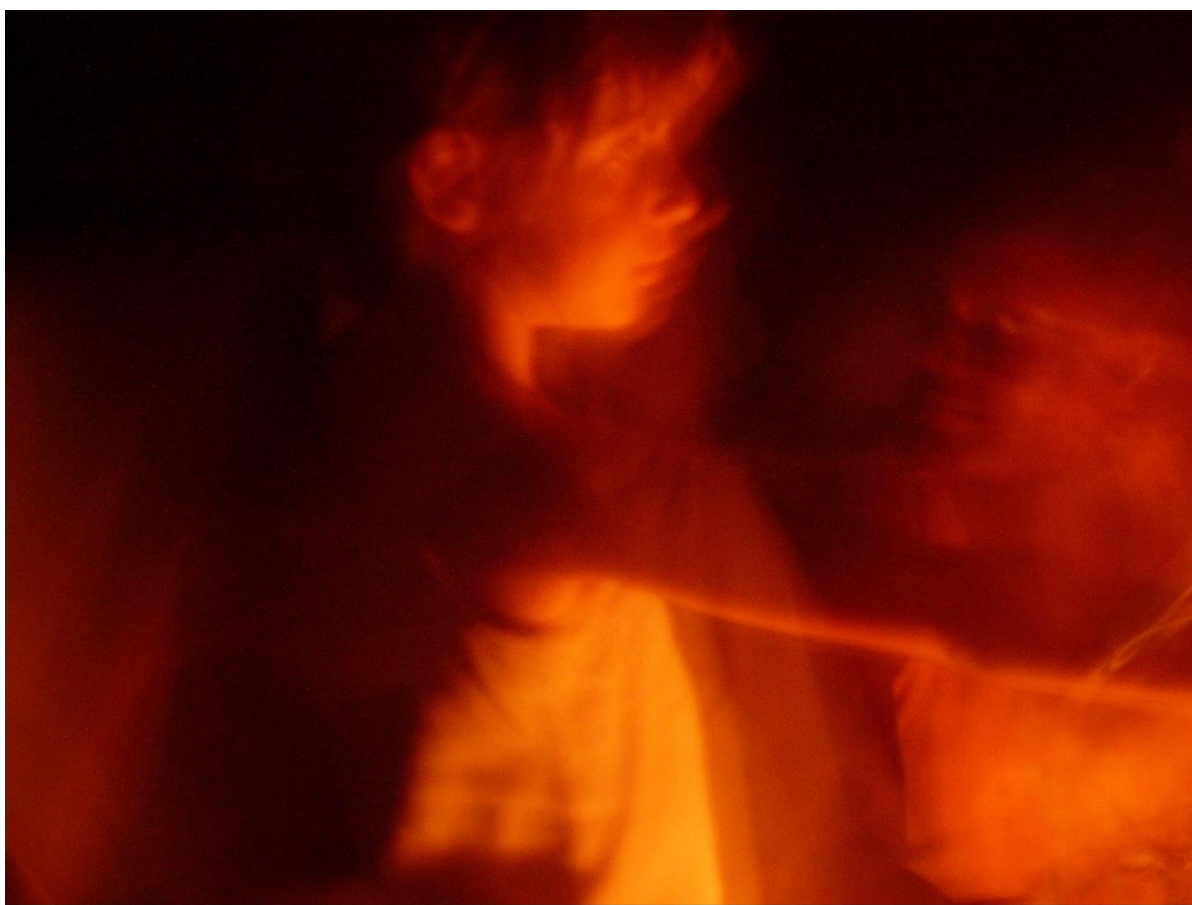
A shot from the mobile.....rotten quality but nevertheless a lovely image



Merlin doing the hula hoop extravaganza watched in awe by the kids.....



...who practised themselves after the show



A special moment...toasting marshmallows by the open fire...memories, memories....





We decided to go back to Heddon's Gate Hotel (under the new ownership) as we have developed withdrawal symptoms and we were delighted that the new owners have maintained it in the same style and were extremely hospitable. They deserve to make a go of it but it is hard work and very demanding

Dunster Fair



Dunster Fair on the way down to Devon..



Dunster

The delightful town of Dunster is always a pleasure to walk around. Attractively situated close to the coast in a pretty valley with a water mill and many restaurants add to the charm. Obviously lots of visitors but that is what keeps it alive and it does not seem to be 'swamped'



We have nurtured three oak saplings at home for several years and decided to plant them in the valley leading to Heddon's Mouth (possibly our favourite place) in loving memory of three very special folk...Morrie Rose, Lillie Rose and Dad. It was a special moment taking the three saplings with our home-grown compost and water (it was still incredibly dry) and finding a spot that was wild and beautiful.



Planting the Oak Saplings at Heddon's Mouth
July '06





The Oak Saplings at Heddon's Mouth
July '06



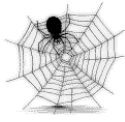
The Oak Saplings at Heddon's Mouth July '06



The whole area is so special in every weather. We have been here in biting cold winds, torrential downpours and scorching sun and agree that every nuance of our climate has its own beauty. The walk to the bay along the footpath, alongside the river with birdsong and wild flowers and the scent from the bushes everywhere and then into the steep-sided valley with loose scree and the soaring birds overhead gives such pleasure in every facet of its changing beauty.

Sitting quietly lost in our own thoughts alone on the beach where the river disappears into the rocky shoreline and then re-appears further down allows time to absorb oneself in the true joy of nature. Slowly as the evening darkness descends we make the more arduous trek back to our hotel often braving the 'ever-harder' climb up the garden cliff to emerge, in the garden below the hotel sweaty, scratched but proud we can still hack it where others use the easier route along the long road and drive.

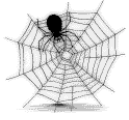




The sheer happiness in being here.....









The Cliff walk....











A short stop for tea and cakes at the Lee Bay Tea Shop





The bird caught in mid-flight with my offering....



A perfect day for bathing





On the walk
to Lynton





The sun sinking slowly on the walk back along the cliff top





As we were the only ones staying that night we were served on the terrace and what a fantastic meal !!!!



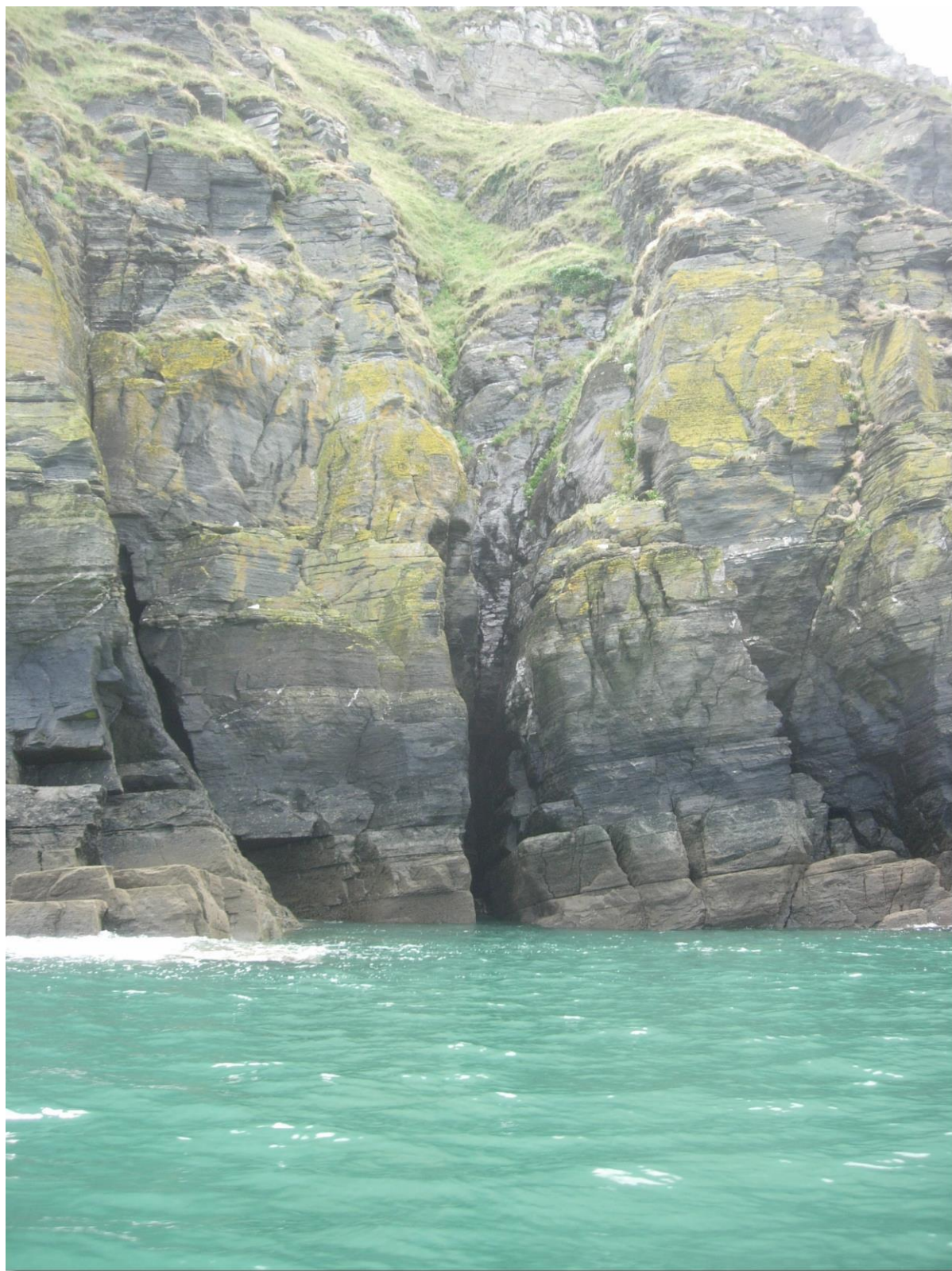




The following day we decided to take the short sea trip along the coast from Lynmouth to see the coastline where we always walk from a different perspective









In Lynton on returning from our boat trip we walked the beautiful walk to Watersmeet.....





.....where, of course, we had to partake of the obligatory coffee and enormous cakes....





Lynn dipping her feet in the River Lynn, icy cold and fantastic relief





Lynn looks great and I look exhausted...can't take these active days old man????





Victoria ('Tortie') and Chris have great shire-horses on their farm on Exmoor and we took a 'pre-rain' run out on the moors in the wonderful trap sharing their wealth of stories about farms, farming and life on the moors.

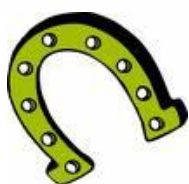
Tortie writes childrens' books based on her love of the horses and Exmoor and she kindly signed some for Larnie.





Rain coming in across the moors





At the end of the ride



back to the hotel and the final wistful look out of our window across the magic valley that never loses its fascination.
Fond memories until our next visit.....